



**Richard M. Flynn**  
Commissioner

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY**  
**DIVISION OF FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING**  
**BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** EMS Units, Medical Control Board, Coordinating Board, Regional Council Chairs  
**FROM:** Will Owen, ALS Coordinator  
**DATE:** June 2, 2003  
**RE:** HB104 – Temporary Care and Control of Children at a Hospital or Safe Haven

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On behalf of the New Hampshire Department of Safety, the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (NHBEMS) wants to take this opportunity to make everyone aware of House Bill 104 which has been signed by Governor Benson and goes into effect on June 4, 2003.

The bill creates a new Chapter (132-A) in NH RSA entitled "Temporary Care and Control of Children at a Hospital or Safe Haven". The purpose of the bill is to establish procedures for a Hospital or Safe Haven to assume temporary care and control of an abandoned child who is not more than 7 days old and create an exception to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child.

The bill impacts the EMS community in that the term "Safe Haven" is defined as "a church which is attended by a person, or a police or fire station which is attended by a person, or a 911 responder at an agreed transfer location." A copy of the final bill is enclosed.

The NHBEMS is currently working with the NH Department of Health and Human Services and the NH Hospital Association on developing a protocol to handle a situation involving an abandoned child. We will distribute updates with new information as soon as they are available.

In the meantime, if you are presented with a situation regarding an abandoned child, NHBEMS recommendations are to:

1. Accept the child from the parent(s). The child's parent(s) are not required to reveal personally identifiable information, but if you are able to obtain this information, you should.
2. Ask the parent if the child has any significant medical history which may have an impact on the immediate health of the child.
3. Provide Emergency Medical Services to the child per Local Option Patient Care Protocols.
4. Transport the child to the closest appropriate hospital and communicate the situation to the hospital.

If you have any further questions or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me at 888-827-5367 or 271-4568 or [wowen@safety.state.nh.us](mailto:wowen@safety.state.nh.us). Thank You!